

REGULAR MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 21, 2016

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

6:45 P.M.

OPEN FORUM

Town Issues

Former Town Council member Thomas McGee IV asked the town to refocus on matters that are important to the town such as the wastewater agreement and not the Administrator's vehicle or chocolate covered strawberries.

Daniel Halloran referenced an issue from years ago revolving around a power plant and the large crowd that attended meetings. Even with the large crowd, the meetings were controlled and everyone worked together. He asked this Council to do the same.

School Committee member Arthur Bassett asked the Council to get back to the business of running the town. He was disheartened with the Council's actions on the School Committee's capital funding plan.

It was a message sent to the School Committee that the Town Council did not want to work together. Mr. Bassett was also concerned with public comments made by Mr. Soly regarding school department contracts because negotiations are currently in progress.

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\$12 Million Bonds

Former Town Council president John Flaherty feels the Town Council is not engaged in this project. Although the Public Buildings Improvement Committee is on track, there is risk. Too much time is being spent on nonsense issues and not on the important issues.

Administrator's Medical Leave

Because the Town Administrator is now out on a medical leave, Dennis Falardeau stated her cell phone should be returned to the town, her email account should be terminated and the signature on the newsletter should be changed.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting began at 7:12 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mr. Soly, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Boucher. Mrs. Nadeau was unable to attend. Town Solicitor Iglioizzi was also in attendance; Town Administrator Hamilton was out on medical leave.

SPEEDING AND SIGNS ON PROVIDENCE PIKE AND GREENVILLE ROAD

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to move this item up next on the agenda.

Acting Sgt. Ellen Lamoureux stated a detail began on January 19th and is continuing generally between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Areas the police department focused on are based on citizen

complaints and observation. Areas include Route 146 north and south, Eddie Dowling Highway, Greenville Road, Providence Pike, Douglas Pike and Smithfield Road. To date there have been 97 vehicle stops, 73 citations issued and 34 warnings given.

WE THE PEOPLE

Students of Mrs. Natalie O'Brien were present to explain their experiences in the program and future plans. Once again the students will be competing in a national competition and will be holding fundraisers for the trip to Washington D.C.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to provide an additional \$2,600 out of the Contingency Fund to We The People.

MOTION by Mr. Soly, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to take a five-minute recess at 7:34 P.M.

The meeting resumed at 7:43 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: ABANDONMENT OF A SECTION OF MCMULLEN AVENUE

Philip Godfrin, the applicant, noted that the Woonsocket City Council members voted last week to abandon the section of McMullen Avenue that is located in Woonsocket.

Mr. Zwolenski asked Mr. Godfrin to provide written documentation of Woonsocket's approval.

Mr. Soly had questions on the wetland delineations as well and would like to see more information.

Mr. Godfrin offered to bring additional documentation to the Town Planner's office.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue the public hearing to April 4, 2016.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to accept and place on file: 1.) Town Council minutes of January 4 and 19, 2016; 2.) Conservation Commission minutes of January 12, 2016; 3.) Planning Board minutes of January 21 and February 4, 2016; 4.) NS Municipal Court monthly report for February 2016; 5.) NSPD monthly report for February 2016; 6.) NSF&RS Inc. monthly report for February 2016; 7.) Animal Control monthly reports for January and February 2016; and 8.) Resolution Re: Support of the

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Formation of a Coalition Among Rhode Island's Regional School

Districts from the Town of Foster.

Payment of Bills

Upon receiving answers to several questions, MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve payment of the following: General Fund - \$382,591.44; Sewer - \$16,232.62; Water - \$2,723.52; Library - \$34,094.42; School Department - \$1,553,518.58 and Fire Department - \$214,090.00 for a total of \$2,203,250.58 based upon the recommendation of the Acting Town Administrator/Finance Director.

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SEC. 2-222 TOWN VEHICLES

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to amend Paragraph (e) to read, “The vehicle travel and fuel log shall be submitted once a month at the end of the month” instead of weekly.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 3 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Boucher voted no) to amend Paragraph (d) to keep the license plates that are currently on the Administrator’s vehicle rather than replacing them with municipal government plates.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to add, “All travel and fuel logs shall be subject to Town Council review” at the end of Paragraph (e).

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote that throughout the ordinance wherever it states “town official or employee” shall be amended to include “elected town official, other town officials, appointed department directors or employees”.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance as amended as a second reading.

OLD OXFORD ROAD/OLD TIFFT ROAD/BROOKSIDE EQUESTRIAN FARM

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Soly and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue this to April 4, 2016 at the request of Mr. Stephen Bator, an abutter to this particular property.

“BRIBERY” INVESTIGATION REPORT

The North Smithfield Police Department had been directed to investigate bribery allegations. At the conclusion of their investigation, the North Smithfield Police Department requested that the Attorney General’s Office review all the materials that had been compiled. No evidence was found to indicate bribery or attempted bribery of any member of the North Smithfield Town Council. Furthermore, there was no such intent on the part of Ms. Rivera.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to attach the letters from Chief Steven E. Reynolds dated March 4, 2016 and Assistant Attorney General John C. Krollman dated February 19, 2016 to the minutes.

Mr. Zwolenski wanted it noted that other false accusations had been made at that Council meeting where the bribery charge had first been discussed.

NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MASTER PLAN

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to award the bid to Brewster Thornton Group Architects for the amount of \$9,925.00.

SCHOOL CAPITAL FUNDING PLAN

Finance Director Jason Parmelee has worked on a school capital funding plan and he provided cost models and funding sources for the models.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to have Mr. Parmelee contact the School Committee,

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the Budget Committee and the Planning Board to schedule a meeting on the capital funding plan.

PLACEMENT OF SIGNS ON PROVIDENCE PIKE AND GREENVILLE ROAD

Mr. Dennis Falardeau talked about the traffic study that had been done by RIDOT in 2011. The report showed that, in addition to an enforcement issue due to excessive speeding, numerous school safety zone signs were missing on Providence Pike and Greenville Road. He is upset that the signs had never been posted and now the town will be spending money on a report indicating how many signs should be installed and where they should be posted when it all could have been done years ago at no cost.

Mr. Zwolenski is of the opinion that once the Pare Corporation report is received, it should be given to RIDOT to have them install the signs.

PARE CORPORATION CONTRACT REGARDING ROAD SIGNS

Mr. Parmelee stated the signed contract has been sent to John Shevlin of Pare Corporation.

SEALS ON TOWN VEHICLES

The Town Administrator had been directed to place the town seal on all vehicles including the Administrator's vehicle and that has not been done.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to direct the Acting Town Administrator to have the town seal placed on the Administrator's vehicle within 48 hours.

PUBLIC BUILDING IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE ON BOND PROJECTS

Because Mrs. Nadeau was not in attendance, MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue this to April 4, 2016.

APPOINTMENT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

There was no appointment.

APPOINTMENT OF 2ND ALTERNATE TO PLANNING BOARD

There was no appointment.

APPOINTMENT TO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

There was no appointment.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

Mr. Parmelee informed the Council that the matter had been taken care of by the Tax Assessor.

INCREASE IN CONTRACT LIMIT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO SEWERS - HORSLEY WITTEN

In June 2015 the Council approved a contract with Horsley Witten to provide engineering services related to sewer assessment appeals, sewer construction and maintenance, and documentation for the Sewer Commission and Town Council including attendance at various meetings. There is a limit associated with this contract of \$20,000. The Sewer Commission has recently authorized Horsley Witten to perform additional work (i.e. GIS map showing sewer connections and an infrastructure replacement plan) which is currently underway or about to begin. This work will cause the contract limit of \$20,000 to be exceeded. Horsley Witten is requesting to increase the contract limit to an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve an increase in the contract limit with Horsley Witten for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 and to authorize Acting Town Administrator Parmelee to sign the document.

Mr. Zwolenski asked Mr. Parmelee to check if the Assistant Town Planner could assist in any way with the GIS mapping.

RESOURCE CONTROLS TRANSFER OF NAME ON EXISTING CONTRACT

Mr. Parmelee explained this is a contract with Resource Controls. There are two parts to it: one is to continue the existing annual

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renewal agreement for groundwater sampling required by DEM and the other is a disclosure that they have merged with another entity and they need the Town to acknowledge that all of the historical contract terms carry forward to the new entity.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve the formal transfer of name and to authorize the Acting Town Administrator to sign the document.

VIRTUAL TOWNS AND SCHOOLS PROPOSAL FOR WEB SITE IMPROVEMENT

Mrs. Nadeau had placed this on the agenda but since she was unable to attend, **MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue this to April 4, 2016.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPRESENTATION BY THE TOWN SOLICITOR AND REQUEST FOR OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted to amend the agenda to add executive session in order to discuss these two issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to enter into executive session at 9:37 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to come out of executive session at 10:08 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote at 10:08 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:09 P.M.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk